

# **Community Development I: Principles and Strategies of Community Change Course Syllabus Fall, 2006**

**Instructor:** Cornelia Butler Flora

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## **Course Overview:**

This interdisciplinary course analyzes principles and practices of community change and development, beginning with definitions of community and the contribution of community capitals to community well-being. Using case studies and the students' communities of reference, the course will relate Community Development approaches to conceptual models from diverse disciplines. Students will be exposed to professional practice principles and will leave the course having examined the seven capitals in their community as a basis for community improvement through the practice of community development.

## **Course Objectives:**

- Students will demonstrate their comprehension by applying definitions of community, rural and the capitals
- Students will be able to distinguish among communities of place, of interest, and of practice
- Students will analyze case studies to determine the efficacy of the approach and validity of the supporting data
- Students will demonstrate their command of the information in the course by creating synthesis paper on community development potentials in their own communities.
- Students will demonstrate comprehension by defining collaboration and identifying strategies that led to successful collaboration
- Students will demonstrate their ability apply and analyze community theories and use them to analyze community situations
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the ethical considerations involved in community development work by applying the Community Development Society principles of good practice to their plan for professional development

**Course Policies and Procedures:** As for all on-line courses, students are expected to be professional and courteous in their on-line exchange. This expectation does not preclude vigorous discussion and occasional dispute, but directs the tone of all exchanges between students and between students and the instructor. All readings are to be completed before participation in on-line discussion to ensure a common knowledge base. No late

assignment will be accepted, as deadlines are clearly defined at the outset of the course. Clear directions for each assignment and how to best complete it is on the web for each module. If a student feels they are unable to complete an assignment by the deadline due to extraordinary personal or professional reasons, please contact the professor ahead of time.

### **Course Requirements:**

In this course, you will complete 13 assignments that you will then integrate and summarize for your final paper. You will also be required to post at least one question and one observation on the readings for each of the 13 modules, using threaded discussion. You will also be required to respond to your classmates' questions and observations each week. If you have a specific question for me, I will be happy to respond. Otherwise, the observations and questions and the responses are to generate discussion and allow us to compare our insights. You will post all your assignments on Web CT. This is sometimes a little frustrating, so you can e-mail your completed assignments directly to me as well as posting them.

### **Grading:**

Threaded discussion and response to questions 10 points = 130

Assignments 20 points = 260

Final paper = 110

Total points = 500

The grading scale is:

450-500 points	=	A
400-449 points	=	B
350-399 points	=	C
300-349 points	=	D
Less than 300 points	=	F

### **Required Course Materials:**

#### **Texts:**

Flora, Cornelia Butler, Jan L. Flora, with Susan Fey. 2004. *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change*. Second Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ISBN 0-8133-9769-3 (paperback). Approx \$40.00.

Keller, Suzaanne. 2003. *Community: Pursuing the Dream, Living the Reality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ISBN 0-691-09564-7 (paperback) Approx. \$17.00

Other readings, available on the web:

Besser, Terry L. and Margaret M. Hanson. 2004. "Development of Last Resort: The Impact of New State Prisons on Small Town Economies in the United States." **Journal of the Community Development Society**. 35:1-16.

Boyle, Mary-Ellen and Ira Silver. 2003. "Poverty, Partners, and Privilege: Elite Institutions and Community Empowerment." **City and Community** 4: 233-254.

Emery, M. and C. Flora. 2006. "Spiraling-Up: Mapping Community Transformation with Community Capitals Framework." **Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society** 37: 19-35.

Flora, C.B. 2004. "Social Aspects of Small Water Systems." **Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education** 128: 6-12.

<http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/flora/watersystems.htm>

- Halebsky, Stephen. 2004. "Superstores and the Politics of Retail Development." **City and Community** 3: 115-134.
- Hillman, Mick. 2002. "Environmental Justice: A Crucial Link Between Environmentalism and Community Development?" **Community Development Journal**, 37: 349-360.
- Lichtenstein, Gregg A., Thomas S. Lyons, and Nailya Kutzhanova. 2004. "Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Appropriate Role of Enterprise Development Activities." **Journal of the Community Development Society** 35: 5-24.
- Williams, Colin C. 2005. "Cultivating Community Self-Help in Deprived Urban Neighborhoods." **City and Community** 4: 171-189.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Module 1 August 21-25 – getting started**

This week we will get to know each other, where we come from, and how we can work together via the web

#### **Assignment 1 Choosing your community "laboratory" –Due August 25, 10 pm**

Acquire a map of "your" community: a town, reservation, neighborhood, or village, and the hinterland that relates to it. You will use threaded discussion to describe your community to class members and respond to their questions about it.

### **Module 2 –The capitals framework: basic terms and interconnections August 28-September 3**

Reading Assignment—

Flora, Flora and Fey – Ch. 1.

Keller Ch. 1, 2, and 3

**Assignment 2:** Your relationship to the community you will study **Due September 3, 10 pm**

### **Module 3 –Natural capital September 4-10**

Reading Assignment due?: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 6

Keller, ch. 4

Hillman, Mick. 2002. "Environmental Justice: A Crucial Link Between Environmentalism and Community Development?" *Community Development Journal*, 37: 349-360.

**Assignment 3: Community Environmental Strengths and Challenges – Due September 10, 10 pm**

### **Module 4– Cultural capital September 11-15**

Reading Assignment due?: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 2

Keller ch. 5

Williams, Colin C. 2005. "Cultivating Community Self-Help in Deprived Urban Neighborhoods." **City and Community** 4: 171-189.

**Assignment 4: Sources of Community Cultural Capital – Due Sept. 17, 10 pm**

### **Module 5 – Human capital, September 18-24**

Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 4

**Assignment 5: Human capital and the local labor force Due September 24 10 pm**

### **Module 6 – Social capital, September 25-October 8**

Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 3

Keller, Ch. 7 and 8

Emery, M. and C. Flora. 2006. "Spiraling-Up: Mapping Community Transformation with Community Capitals Framework." **Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society** 37: 19-35.

**Assignment 6: Social Capital: Examples of Progressive Participation Due Sept. 24, 10 pm**

### **Module 7 – Political capital, October 9-13**

Reading Assignment due?: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 5

Keller ch. 12

Silverman, Robert Mark. 2005. "Caught in the Middle: Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and the Conflict between Grassroots and Instrumental Forms of Citizen Participation." **Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society** 36: 35-51.

**Assignment 7 :The reputational approach to study of community power Due October 15, 10 pm**

### **Module 8– Financial Capital October 16-20**

Reading :Flora, Flora and Fey, ch.7

Besser, Terry L. and Margaret M. Hanson. 2004. "Development of Last Resort: The Impact of New State Prisons on Small Town Economies in the United States." **Journal of the Community Development Society.** 35:1-16.

Lichtenstein, Gregg A., Thomas S. Lyons, and Nailya Kutzhanova. 2004. "Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Appropriate Role of Enterprise Development Activities." **Journal of the Community Development Society** 35: 5-24.

**Assignment 8 Community sources of capital. Due October 22, 10 pm**

### **Module 9 – Built Capital October 23-27**

Reading s: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 8

Keller, Ch. 9

Flora, C.B. 2004. "Social Aspects of Small Water Systems." **Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education** 128: 6-12. <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/flora/watersystems.htm>

**Assignment 9 Local infrastructure: the organization of water and sewers Due October 29 10 pm**

### **Module 10 – Globalization October 30-November 3**

Readings: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 9

Keller, Ch. 14

**Assignment 10: Local workers and globalization. Due November 5, 10 pm**

### **Module 11 – Consumption November 6-10**

Readings: Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 10

Keller, Ch. 13

Halebsky, Stephen. 2004. "Superstores and the Politics of Retail Development." **City and Community** 3: 115-134.

**Assignment 11 How are you integrated into the global economy? Clothing inventory. Due November 12 10 pm**

**Module 12 – Governments November 13-17**

Reading: Flora, Flora, and Fey, ch. 11

Keller, Ch. 10, Ch. 11

**Assignment 12 The relevant governments for my community Due November 26, 10 pm**

**Module 13 – Generating Change November 27-December 1**

Reading : Flora, Flora and Fey, ch. 12

Keller Ch. 15 and Epilogue

Boyle, Mary-Ellen and Ira Silver.2003. "Poverty, Partners, and Privilege: Elite Institutions and Community Empowerment." **City and Community** 4: 233-254.

**Assignment 13: Local organizations and their approach to change. Due December 3, 10 pm**

**Final assignment: Synthesis – Present your community analysis, based on the assignments and the readings. Due December 17 10 pm**

Hello students!

I am pleased that you signed up to take Community Development I. This will be an exciting course, and we will learn a lot together. This interdisciplinary course analyzes principles and practices of community change and development, beginning with definitions of community and the contribution of community capitals to community well-being. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension by applying definitions of community, rural and the capitals
- Distinguish among communities of place, of interest, and of practice
- Analyze case studies to determine the efficacy of the approach and validity of the supporting data
- Demonstrate a command of the information in the course by creating synthesis paper on community development potentials in their own communities.
- Demonstrate comprehension by defining collaboration and identifying strategies that led to successful collaboration
- Demonstrate ability to apply and analyze community theories and use them to analyze community situations
- Demonstrate understanding of the ethical considerations involved in community development work by applying the Community Development Society principles of good practice to their plan for professional development

To log into the course, you will need to login to Web CT through the Iowa State system. To do this, go to: <http://www.celt.iastate.edu/webct/>. If you have questions about this procedure, you may email me at [cflora@iastate.edu](mailto:cflora@iastate.edu), or Carrie Brus, [cbrus@iastate.edu](mailto:cbrus@iastate.edu).

I look forward to meeting you online and to a very satisfying semester together!

Regards,  
Cornelia Flora